

NH Tidal Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

NH Department of Environmental Services
Pease Field Office, Portsmouth, NH
February 15, 2008, 1:00 PM

Members:

Rep. Thomas Fargo, Co-Chair, City of Dover
Ken Baldwin, Co-Chair, UNH
Nancy Borden, Public Appointee
Cynthia Copeland, NHEP (Strafford Regional Planning Commission)
Brian Giles, NH Estuaries Project
Kathleen Lewis, Public Service of New Hampshire
Sean McDermott, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jack Pare, Town of Newington
Jack Ruderman, NH Office of Energy and Planning
Christopher Waszczuk, NH Department of Transportation

Other Attendees:

Aiman Alawa, Free Flow Energy
Rob Cinq-Mars, Free Flow Energy
Jay Clement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Henry Dormitzer, Free Flow Power
Dan Edson, Free Flow Energy
Pete Feeney, Free Flow Energy
David Funk, Great Bay Stewards
Jim Irish, UNH
David Kellam, NH Estuaries Project
Norwand Laberge, Free Flow Energy
Gail Pare, Great Bay Coast Watch
Justin Richardson, Upton Hatfield, LLP
Christian Williams, NH Coastal Program
Craig Yankes, NH Sustainable Energy Association

Guest Speaker:

Denise Vauthier, UEK Corporation

Summary:

Co-chair, Rep. Tom Fargo asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Co-chair Fargo then asked commission members for comments on the draft version of the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes. No comments were received. Co-chair Fargo then made a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by members. The final version of the minutes will be posted on the commission's web page at http://des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean_policy.html.

Co-chair Fargo then introduced Denise Vauthier, Senior Vice President of Underwater Electric Kite (UEK) Corporation. Ms. Vauthier gave a presentation summarizing UEK's tidal hydrokinetic power proposal for the Piscataqua River. She briefly reviewed UEK's patented bi-directional hydroturbine assembly technology. She also discussed the goals and phasing of UEK's Piscataqua River proposal, as well as the environmental and installation-related issues facing the proposal. Following the presentation, Ms. Vauthier fielded questions from commission members. Ms. Vauthier's presentation will be posted on the commission's web page.

Co-chair Fargo then referred members to the memorandum from Evan Mulholland of the NH Department of Justice, Attorney General's Office dated February 14, 2008. The memorandum addressed a number of questions raised by commission members at the December 7, 2007 meeting. Co-Chair Fargo requested that members review the memorandum and direct any additional questions to him via email. He stated that he'd compile the additional questions and submit them to Mr. Mulholland. Co-Chair Fargo stated that he intends to incorporate the memorandum and any additional correspondence from Mr. Mulholland into the commission's final report to the legislature.

Co-Chair Fargo then asked for updates from each of the commission's subcommittees. Chris Williams, chair of the Permitting Requirements Subcommittee, stated that he had not received any comments from commission members regarding the draft revised list of applicable laws and regulations that was presented at the last meeting. He stated that he is seeking comments on the draft list, which is available on the commission's web page. Kathleen Lewis, chair of the Public and Business Community Outreach Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee has been compiling information presented by the Guest Speakers at prior meetings and is awaiting the findings of the other subcommittees. Co-Chair Fargo then informed members that Peter Wellenberger is unable to continue to serve as chair of the Environmental and Wildlife Impact Assessment Subcommittee. He asked for a volunteer to chair the subcommittee. Sean McDermott agreed to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Ken Baldwin, chair of the Technical Feasibility, Cost and Benefits Analysis Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee met once, but not the full subcommittee. He stated that the subcommittee plans to meet before the next Commission meeting.

Co-chair Fargo then opened the meeting up for a roundtable discussion of items of interest to commission and non-commission members. Jack Pare presented a motion to endorse the UNH student test project to deploy a turbine under the General Sullivan Bridge. The motion was approved by the Commission.

The next commission meeting was scheduled for **Friday, March 28, 2008 at 1:00 PM at the NH Department of Environmental Services Pease Office in Portsmouth.**

Directions to the NHDES Pease Office will be provided on the commission's web page.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM